

**STATEMENT FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE
ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK
November 17-21, 2008**

The U.S. Department of State joins with the U.S. Department of Education to mark the ninth annual International Education Week (IEW), and to emphasize the importance of international education and exchange in establishing mutual respect and understanding among people around the world.

The challenges of the 21st century cannot be addressed by government alone and, therefore, our public-private partnerships with non-governmental organizations, businesses, educational institutions, and communities are more important than ever to effective public diplomacy. Indeed, educational institutions--primary and secondary schools, vocational schools, colleges and universities--have always played a key role in opening minds and creating global awareness, and have traditionally been among the State Department's strongest partners in shaping the citizen diplomat.

Schools, universities, non-profit organizations, community groups, and businesses around the world participate in IEW annually to celebrate the benefits of international educational exchange. During International Education Week, we have the opportunity to highlight for the citizens of other countries the value of experiencing an American education and American culture firsthand, and to demonstrate to American students the value of studying abroad and hosting international exchange students.

IEW 2008 features an increasingly interactive web presence including using social networking tools to engage a wider and more diverse audience, especially young people, in celebrating international education and exchange. I encourage Americans and our friends around the world to become involved by visiting the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' website <http://exchanges.state.gov/> to submit information on your regional or local community event in celebration of International Education Week 2008.

Through the power of international education, we can look forward to a more peaceful and prosperous future together.

Condoleezza Rice